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Week of November 26, 2023

Jesus: Hated, Adored, and Followed - Mark 3:1-19

<sup>1</sup>Jesus went into the synagogue again and noticed a man with a deformed hand. <sup>2</sup>Since it was the Sabbath, Jesus' enemies watched him closely. If he healed the man's hand, they planned to accuse him of working on the Sabbath. <sup>3</sup>Jesus said to the man with the deformed hand, 'Come and stand in front of everyone.' <sup>4</sup>Then he turned to his critics and asked, 'Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?' But they wouldn't answer him. <sup>5</sup>He looked around at them angrily and was deeply saddened by their hard hearts. Then he said to the man, 'Hold out your hand.' So the man held out his hand, and it was restored! <sup>6</sup>At once the Pharisees went away and met with the supporters of Herod to plot how to kill Jesus. <sup>7</sup>Jesus went out to the lake with his disciples, and a large crowd followed him. They came from all over Galilee, Judea, <sup>8</sup>Jerusalem, Idumea, from east of the Jordan River, and even from as far north as Tyre and Sidon. The news about his miracles had spread far and wide, and vast numbers of people came to see him. <sup>9</sup>Jesus instructed his disciples to have a boat ready so the crowd would not crush him. <sup>10</sup>He had healed many people that day, so all the sick people eagerly pushed forward to touch him. <sup>11</sup>And whenever those possessed by evil[a] spirits caught sight of him, the spirits would throw them to the ground in front of him shrieking, 'You are the Son of God!' <sup>12</sup>But Jesus sternly commanded the spirits not to reveal who he was. <sup>13</sup>Afterward Jesus went up on a mountain and called out the ones he wanted to go with him. And they came to him. <sup>14</sup>Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles. They were to accompany him, and he would send them out to preach, <sup>15</sup>giving them authority to cast out demons. <sup>16</sup>These are the twelve he chose: Simon (whom he named Peter), <sup>17</sup>James and John (the sons of Zebedee, but Jesus nicknamed them "Sons of Thunder", <sup>18</sup>Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon (the zealot), <sup>19</sup>Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him).

Mark 3:1-19

## The Sabbath - An Overview

What God had given to be a \_\_\_\_\_  
Some had turned into a \_\_\_\_\_

### Religious Traditions - How A Good Thing Becomes A Bad Thing

1. We start adding extra \_\_\_\_\_ to God's \_\_\_\_\_
2. We begin using the Bible as \_\_\_\_\_  
Instead of as a \_\_\_\_\_
3. We \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse

"Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye."  
Matthew 7:5

**Acknowledgements:** Sources used in the preparation of this message include material presented by Larry Osborne, David Guzik, Skip Heitzig, Alistair Begg, John MacArthur, and others.

### MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Respond to Jesus' call to follow Him for the first time today
- Memorize Matthew 7:5
- Ask Jesus to show me if I have any religious traditions in my life that are keeping me from really knowing and following Him.
- Get the most out of today's message by attending my Life Group





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Mark 3:1-19

## The Sabbath - An Overview

What God had given to be a **Blessing**  
 Some had turned into a **Burden**

### Religious Traditions - How A Good Thing Becomes A Bad Thing

1. We start adding extra **Rules** to God's **Rules**
2. We begin using the Bible as **Binoculars**  
 Instead of as a **Mirror**
3. We **Major** on **Minors**

### Memory Verse

"Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye."  
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- Get the most out of today's message by attending my Life Group





## Discussion Questions - Week #9

# LIFE GROUPS

### QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the weekend sermon, “Jesus: Hated, Adored, and Followed,” summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Do you plan on taking any practical steps this week in response to the message?

### GETTING STARTED

▶ Have you ever been around someone who was consistently judgmental or legalistic? What was it like being around them, and how did they impact their family and friends?

▶ Over the past two weeks, we've read about conflicts Jesus has had with the religious authorities over Sabbath rules. In your life, do you tend to be a rule follower or rule breaker? Have you found this tendency to be a greater strength or weakness?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Observing the Sabbath is the only one of the 10 Commandments not repeated in the New Testament. While the command isn't repeated, the concept of building regular times of rest and renewal into our busy lives is found throughout the Bible. Read Genesis 2:1-3, Mark 6:30-31 & Matthew 11:28-30. What stands out to you in these passages?

Why do you think God rested in Genesis chapter two?

Do you think it's important for Christians to prioritize the Sabbath?

What are the biggest challenges you face in creating enough margin in life to allow you to rest and renew?

If you were to create a weekly rhythm of renewal, what elements would you include in your day of rest?

2. In Mark chapter three, we read about the appointing of the twelve disciples. While God eventually used some of these disciples to make an incredible impact on the world, they were far from a spiritual All-Star team. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. How did the twelve disciples fit Paul's description of foolish, low, and despised?

How did Paul himself fit this description?

How does it feel to you to be in this category?

Why does God choose these kinds of people for His kingdom work?

If God chooses and uses those who are foolish and weak, does that mean we shouldn't bother trying to grow, learn, or change?

### For Practice

Biblically speaking, the Sabbath is a 24-hour time period set aside to stop, rest, delight, and worship. Those who practice it regularly will tell you it is the best day of the week. In our era of chronic exhaustion, emotional unhealth, and spiritual stagnation, few things are more necessary than the recovery of this practice. If you're not doing it yet, taking the full 24 hours to rest might be tricky to fit into your schedule. If that's you, consider a morning or an afternoon where you unplug, turn your phone, and rest. Say a prayer, read some scripture... and then take a nap, go for a run, read a good book, or call a friend. When your time is over, take another moment to thank God for the gift of rest.

### SHARE IT

Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for boldness for those in our church family extending invites this Christmas season. Pray also for receptive hearts in those who receive these invitations, that they would join us and respond positively to the true message of Christmas.